CHAMBER OF DARKNESS SPECIAL

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CHAMBER OF DARKNESS™

SPECIAL

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5 TALES OF MADDENING MAGIC!

This free booklet tells you how you can break into Computer Programming

23,000 more programmers needed each year... get your basic training now!

...by training at home.
Also FREE: Interesting sample lesson for you to try.
No obligation.

Why don't you prepare for a career in programming? All it takes to start your training is a high school education and a logical mind. No machines are involved because a programmer does not operate machines. He writes the programs that tell the computers what to do.

Programmers are to be found in many types of business—in manufacturing, banks, department stores, communications, transportation, utilities. Trainees begin at good pay, and with the right background and experience can rise to fill supervisory positions at upper-level salaries.

Instead of worrying about how long your present job is going to last, you can plan for a bigger future in a growth field. Continuing expansion in the years ahead may result in more openings for computer programmers than there will be people to fill them!

Right now, without leaving your present job, you can prepare for a trainee position in computer programming. A position that may open up many opportunities for you—in the exciting world of tomorrow.

You can study computer programming with LaSalle at home, in your spare time. Experienced LaSalle instructors will teach you by mail—correct and grade your lesson assignments. You will receive basic instruction in the nature, hardware, vocabulary, equipment and techniques of computer programming.

Send for free sample lesson and fascinating booklet "Beginning Your Career in Computer Programming." In simple, non-technical language this booklet tells you what computer programming is; what the programmer does; and how you can get your basic training in your spare time. LaSalle, 417 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

LA SALLE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY
A Correspondence Institution
417 S. Dearborn Street, Dept. 70-015 Chicago, Illinois 60606

Yes, I want free booklet "Beginning Your Career In Computer Programming" and sample lesson.

Print Name.....Age.....
Address.....Apt. No.....
City.....
State.....Zip.....
LSH

MAIL THIS COUPON—NO OBLIGATION →

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TODAY'S TANTALIZING LITTLE TALE IS ALL ABOUT A BOY NAMED TOMMY!
TOMMY IS LUCKIER THAN MOST BOYS-- BECAUSE HE FOUND SOMETHING THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR!
THE ONLY THING I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY IT FRIGHTENED HIM SO! IT SEEMS TO ME HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY-- FOR, AFTER ALL--
IT'S ONLY MAGIC!
HEADSTONE & GRAVELY
"KEEP SMILING!"
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INKING & LETTERING: by: JOHN VERPOORTEN and ARTIE SIMEK

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published annually. Copyright (C) 1971 by Magazine Management Co., Inc., Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 1. January, 1972 issue. Price 25¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purley coincidental. Reprints courtesy of Magazine Management Co., Inc. Marvel Comics Group. Copyright (C) 1969. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate $3.50 and $4.00 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions $5.00.

TOMMY LOVED TO READ ABOUT ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL! HE DEVOURED GHOST STORIES--COMIC BOOKS--MAGIC TALES--AND NEVER MISSED STUDYING HIS DAILY HOROSCOPE--

HEY--TODAY'S A LUCKY DAY FOR ME!

ACCORDING TO THIS, I'LL BE RECEIVING SOME MONEY!

I WONDER WHERE THE DOUGH WILL COME FROM?

TOMMY--WAIT UP! I'VE GOTTA TALK TO YOU!

WHO NEEDS A PEST LIKE HIM AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

HERE'S THAT FIVE YOU LENT ME LAST MONTH!

FIVE BUCKS! SO THAT'S ALL IT IS!

BETCHA NEVER EXPECTED TO GET IT BACK AGAIN!

HUH? WOTTA YA MEAN?

SKIP IT!

I KNOW THERE'S SUCH A THING AS MAGIC--AND THE SUPER-NATURAL!

I BELIEVE IN THINGS THAT CAN'T BE SEEN--OR EXPLAINED!

BUT HOROSCOPES AND THINGS LIKE THAT ARE KID STUFF!

I WANNA LEARN HOW TO CAST A REAL MAGIC SPELL!

MAN! IF I COULD CONJURE UP DEMONS AND DJINNS TO DO MY BIDDING--

THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WHOLE WORLD I COULDN'T HAVE! NOTHING!

SO IT'S TIME THAT I GOT STARTED!

EVERYONE THINKS OLD *HIRAM THE HERMIT* IS OUT OF HIS TREE 'CAUSE HE RUNS THE ONLY *OCCULT* BOOK STORE IN TOWN!

AND HE KEEPS THE JOINT *LOCKED* MOST OF THE TIME! HE DOESN'T EVEN WANNA *SELL* HIS BOOKS!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH I'LL FIND WHAT I *NEED* IN THERE!

SORRY, YOUNG MAN! MY BOOK SHOP IS *CLOSED!*

I JUST WANNA *BROWSE* AROUND! I WON'T *DISTURB* YOU!

I'VE GOTTA GET OVER TO HIS *PRIVATE* BOOK SECTION!

WELL, YOU CAN LOOK AROUND, IF YOU WISH--

BUT DON'T *TOUCH* ANY BOOKS THAT HAVE *GREEN BINDINGS!*

OKAY! THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH!

THANKS FOR MAKING IT *EASY* FOR ME, POPS!

HE'S NOT *LOOKING!* NOW'S MY CHANCE!

ANCIENT DRUID SPELLS by

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M *STEALING* IT! I'LL ONLY KEEP IT *OVERNIGHT!*

THAT'S ALL THE TIME I'LL *NEED* TO FIND JUST THE *SPELL* I WANT!

WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE *GOING* NOW!

YOU WILL BE *BACK*, MY BOY--EVEN BEFORE YOU *KNOW* IT!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY *THAT?*

NO MATTER! JUST CALL IT THE *BABBLING* OF AN OLD, OLD MAN!

BOY! SOUNDS LIKE HE'S REALLY GONE *BANANAS!*

LATER, IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS ROOM--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HALF OF THESE WORDS *MEAN*--

BUT THERE'S NO HARM IN *SAYING* THEM ANYWAY!

THIS ONE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH CAUSING A *DJINN* TO APPEAR!

MAN--IF IT REALLY *WORKS*, I'LL NEVER HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL OR OBEY ANOTHER *GROWN-UP* AGAIN!

BY THE FIERY MISTS OF AASHOPETH, BY THE WRAITHS THAT DWELL THEREIN--IN THE NAMES OF ALL WHO LIVE IN DEATH, I AWAKE THE SLUMBERING DJINN!

AND IN SO DOING--YOU HAVE FORFEITED YOUR *LIFE!*

NO!

I--I CONJURED YOU UP! YOU MUST OBEY ME!

THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE SPELL!

THEN COMMAND ME QUICK--AND HAVE DONE WITH IT!

THIS AGE IS NOT FOR ME!

I MUST SLEEP AGAIN--TILL MAN HAS FADED FROM THE EARTH!

BUT, ONE SUCH AS I CAN NEVER REST--TILL HIM WHO AWAKENED ME HAS MET HIS DEATH!

BUT--YOU CAN'T HARM ME! HOW CAN I BE KILLED --IF YOU HAVE TO OBEY ME?

DOOMED ONE--HEED MY WORDS! 'TWILL SOON BE CLEAR!

ALL YOU MAY DO IS SPEAK YOUR WISH!

AND, 'TIS I ALONE WHO CHOOSE THE MANNER OF OBEDIENCE!

THEN 'TIS I WHO MUST OBEY!

DID YOU DARE BELIEVE A DJINN WOULD SERVE ONE LIKE YOU!

MY MYSTIC *POWER* IS BEYOND YOUR HUMAN COMPRE-HENSION!

NO! NO! I'M YOUR *MASTER!* YOU MUST *SERVE* ME!

I CAN ANNHILATE ANYTHING THAT *LIVES*--WITH BUT A *GESTURE!*

AND SERVE YOU I *SHALL!*

DO YOU WISH *ETERNAL LIFE?* YOU MAY *HAVE* IT-- IN THE DEEPEST PIT OF *TARTARUS!*

OR, IS IT *WEALTH* YOU CRAVE?

IT CAN BE *YOURS* WITHOUT MEASURE-- *ENTOMBED* WITH YOU TILL THE END OF TIME!

FOR, THE *MANNER* OF GRANTING A WISH--IS *MINE* TO CHOOSE!

THERE IS *NOTHING* YOU CAN WISH THAT I CANNOT *TWIST* AROUND TO SUIT MY ENDS!

AND THEN, ONCE *YOU* HAVE MET YOUR FATE--

I'LL MAKE CERTAIN THAT MY SLUMBERS ARE DISTURBED *NO MORE* BY PUNY, WITLESS *MORTALS*--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

I put 2 full inches on my arms— 3 inches on my chest and trimmed 4 inches off my waist in just 7 weeks...

thanks to the Joe Weider Musclebuilding Course!"—

WHY NOT YOU?

SAYS MOVIE AND T.V. STAR, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, "Mr. Universe" winner. He believes you, too, can easily duplicate his musclebuilding success with the Weider Course.

Why only the Joe Weider "MR. AMERICA" muscle-building course can MUSCLE YOU UP—SHAPE YOU UP—TOUGHEN YOU UP—FAST in just 7 short weeks—and in the privacy of your own home.

It makes no difference whether you're fat, skinny, scraggy or flabby, young or not-so-young—whether you're an office worker, laborer, executive or schoolboy—the WEIDER SYSTEM will pack 4 inches on your chest, 3 inches on each arm—give you football-player shoulders, muscularize your waistline, sock your legs with strength and speed—and "powerize" your entire body—IN JUST 7 SHORT WEEKS—OR LESS!

Only the WEIDER SYSTEM can do this for you because it is based on **scientific** principle—and **proven** by the hundreds of thousands of Champions it has developed since 1938. Practically every Mr. America, Mr. Universe and other "perfect man" title winners used the WEIDER SYSTEM to build their muscle-studded bodies.

NO OTHER MUSCLE-BUILDING SYSTEM ON EARTH CAN MATCH THIS FABULOUS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT—AND NOW THAT SAME SURE-FIRE SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY WITHIN YOUR REACH!

Just rush in free coupon and I will send you proof that you too can own a new "Wildcat Take-Charge" body in just 7 short weeks—It's free, while the supply lasts!

FREE! BIG MUSCLE-BUILDING BOOK!

MAIL THIS COUPON TO ME TODAY AND I'LL RUSH YOU MY NEW BIG 24-PAGE ILLUSTRATED BOOK—FREE! It's jam-packed with proof that you can become an athletic, virile, "Take-Charge" He-Man in just 7 WEEKS—OR LESS! It's loaded with photos, tips, suggestions that will help make your fondest musclebuilding dreams come true—just as it did for Arnold Schwarzenegger and over 2,000,000 other successful students! SEND FOR IT NOW—IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE!

JOE WEIDER

It your Personal Trainer! He has trained almost every "Mr. America", "Mr. Universe", "Mr. Canada", perfect men title winners since 1938—and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over! No other instructor in history can come close to this fantastic record!

HERE'S LIVING PROOF HOW FAST MY COURSE WORKS!

. . . IN ONLY 14 DAYS

HE GAINS 16 POUNDS

BEFORE: Walter Leno, Jr. was weak and "under-nourished" looking—ashamed to be seen anywhere in public.

AFTER: Walter used Weider methods and in just 14 days put on 16 pounds, 2½ on his arms and 2¾ on his chest!

IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO!

. . . IN ONLY 30 DAYS

HE GAINS 25 LBS.

BEFORE: Paul Carmody weighed a skinny 135 lbs. with "toothpick" arms and a shallow chest. He longed to be big and strong.

AFTER: Paul put himself under Weider methods and gained 25 muscular lbs. in 30 days, adding 1½" to his arms, 5" to his chest!

WHY NOT YOU?

MAIL THIS COUPON FOR FREE BOOK

JOE WEIDER
Dept. 83-101A
25 Maple Street
Norwood, N.J. 07648

Dear Joe: Okay, sock it to me! Rush me your Free musclebuilding information and Free "Muscle Up" book that I can use right away to build a handsome new "Take-Charge" body—in just 7 short weeks—in the privacy of my own home. I'm enclosing 25c to cover mailing and handling costs. I'm under no further obligation.

NAME _____ (please print clearly) AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION — NOTHING TO BUY!

THE STRONGEST, MOST VIRILE AND ADMIRED MEN ARE BUILT BY THE WEIDER SYSTEM—FAST!

FOR, ONCE YOUR WISH IS *GRANTED*, I'LL TURN MY POWERS AGAINST ALL *MANKIND!*

AND NEVER *AGAIN* WILL ANY DARE TO SUMMON A SLEEPING *DJINN!*

AND NOW--YOUR TIME IS *UP!*

WISH WHAT YOU *WILL*-- AND I PROMISE IT SHALL BE YOUR *LAST!*

I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOME-THING--*ANYTHING*-- TO SAVE MYSELF-- AND THE *HUMAN RACE!*

THERE IS *ONE* WISH-- AND ONLY *ONE*--THAT EVEN *HE* CAN'T SPOIL--!

NOW, YOU FOOL--*NOW!* MAKE YOUR WISH--OR I *STRIKE!*

I WISH YOU TO TURN *TIME* BACK--BACK TO *SIX P.M.* TODAY--

NO! NOT *THAT!* DON'T ASK ME *THAT!*

YOU *MUST* DO IT-- EXACTLY AS I *COMMAND!*

NOW! DO IT *NOW!*

AND SO--

IT *WORKED!* I-I HAVE A *SECOND* CHANCE!

AND I'LL MAKE THE *MOST* OF IT!

ANCIENT DRUID SPELLS by

THE OLD MAN *SAID* THAT I'D BE *BACK!*

LEAVING SO *SOON*, YOUNG MAN?

YOU *KNOW* IT!

I DON'T *BELIEVE* IN ALL THIS KINDA JUNK!

A *PITY* THAT TOMMY SEEMS SO HARD TO CONVINCE--BUT PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL!

WE HAVEN'T ANY MORE *ROOM* LEFT, ANYWAY!

THOUGH THERE *IS* JUST SPACE ENOUGH TO LEAVE YOU WITH THIS LITTLE SLOGAN-- *ALWAYS LET SLEEPING DJINNS LIE!*

NOW, CREATURES, CREEP OUT OF YOUR CAVES, CRAWL FROM YOUR COFFINS, AND FOLLOW CREIGHTON C. CRAVEN AS HE BUYS A PIECE OF REAL ESTATE THAT'S *FAR OUT*... AND WE DON'T MEAN IN THE *SUBURBS!* COME ALONG WITH OLD *M.P. GRAVELY* AS...

MR. CRAVEN BUYS HIS SCREAM HOUSE!

AT LAST--! THE HOUSE MY GRANDFATHER BUILT... AND IT IS ALL *MINE!*

FOR YEARS I HAVE SAVED AND SCRIMPED TO BUY BACK MY... *MINE!*

I CAN ALMOST *FEEL* ITS PRESENCE... AS THOUGH IT HAD A SOUL OF ITS OWN! --SILLY THOUGHT...

FOR SALE

STAN LEE - REALTOR
DENNIS J. O'NEIL - SALESMAN
TOM SUTTON - DECORATOR

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Hey Fellow! Which Would You Rather Have . . . Neat Prizes . . . or Extra Spending Money?

HERE'S AN AMAZINGLY EASY PLAN THAT GIVES YOU BOTH — Sell GRIT

"America's Greatest Family Newspaper"

Many Boys Make $1 to $6 or More Weekly and Win Many Neat Prizes Too

GRIT Will Help You Get Started In Your Own Profitable Business

You will be sent papers, supplies and selling helps. GRIT will allow you credit on unsold copies until you know how many you can sell. As you will pay only for the papers you sell you cannot lose a thing by starting a GRIT business. Over 1,200,000 families read and enjoy GRIT every week.

You have so much to gain — cash profits — prizes and you'll receive valuable business training which will be helpful to you through the years to come. Join the more than 30,000 boys now selling GRIT in a few hours spare time each week.

Fill Out and Mail This Coupon Today to GRIT Publishing Co., Williamsport, Pa. 17701

Papers Sent Only to Boys in Continental U. S.

Print Name and Address Below

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, Pa. 17701

I'd like to sell GRIT for profits and prizes. MC101

Name

Are You a Boy? ... Age ... Date Bor ... Year

In Care of

Street and No.

Post Office

Print Your Last Name Firmly Here

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS

Just imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "Monster" reaching out—bigger than life-Frankenstein, the original man-made monster, that creation of evil genius that terrorized the world. A giant 7 feet tall, his eyes glow eerily as his hand reaches out—as awful and sinister as the wildest nightmare. Yes—Frankenstein is 7 feet tall, in authentic colors on durable polyethelene, and so lifelike you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers? Comes complete with eyes that glow even in the pitch dark for a special thrilling chill.

Boney the Skeleton. And then there is Boney—stark scary with nothing left but his bare bones. A 7 foot monster out of the grave—his bones white, his eyes staring—even glowing in the dark.

Money Back Guarantee.

Just send $1.00 plus 25c to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.

7 FEET TALL

In Authentic Colors With GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY $1.00

TEN DAY FREE TRIAL

Honor House Dept. 77M R82
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me my 7 foot tall glow in the dark monsters. Send me ☐ Frankenstein ☐ Boney the Skeleton

I enclose $1 plus 25c for postage and handling for each. If I don't get shivers of delight, I can return my purchase within 10 days and you will refund the full purchase price.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

New York State Residents please add sales tax.

YOU ARE A THING OF LUMBER AND CONCRETE... YOU HAVE STOOD HERE IN LONELY, MAJESTIC SILENCE FOR THE BETTER PART OF A CENTURY! NOW, A MAN APPROACHES TO DISTURB THE QUIET WHICH ENWRAPS YOU LIKE A GREAT CLOAK...!

HIS SHUFFLING FEET SCRAPE ON YOUR FLAGSTONES... HE GRUMBLES, AND HIS RASPING VOICE ECHOES THROUGH YOUR DIM, MUSTY ROOMS...

SHOULDN'T TAKE **TOO** MUCH TO PUT THE PLACE IN SHAPE AGAIN... LITTLE PAINT, LITTLE NEW LUMBER...!

HIS WRINKLED FACE AND STOOPED FORM ARE FAMILIAR! SUDDENLY YOU RECOGNIZE HIM, AND A SHUDDER RIPPLES THROUGH YOU FROM YOUR CRUMBLING FOUNDATION TO THE WEATHERED SLATES OF YOUR ROOF—! HE IS OF THE FAMILY YOU DESPISE...!

UMMM... GRANDFATHER MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE **ME**, TO BUILD A HOUSE SO ISOLATED--

--**HE TOO** MUST HAVE LOATHED COMMON PEOPLE!

YOU REMEMBER THE USE THE **FIRST** CRAVEN MADE OF YOU--AND WITHOUT WILLING IT, YOU LASH OUT--!

EH--? HAT KNOCKED OFF... PROBABLY A BREEZE I DIDN'T FEEL!

HIS YELLOWISH FINGERS REACH OUT! YOU RECOIL, DREADING HIS TOUCH!

SOOEEEEE

YOU WILL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP HIM FROM ENTERING YOU... DEFILING YOU! ANYTHING--EVEN SACRIFICE A PART OF YOURSELF! YOU LET THE BOARDS THAT SUPPORT HIS WEIGHT BUCKLE AND FALL--!

SKRAAA-KK!

EE-YAH!

SOUNDLESSLY, YOU SCREAM AT HIM -- DEMAND HE LEAVE -- FOREVER! SOME VITAL CORNER OF HIS MIND HEARS YOU, FOR AS HE LIMPS AWAY HE RETURNS YOUR SCREAM--

HEAR ME, HOUSE! YOU DON'T SCARE ME -- YOU WON'T KEEP ME FROM CLAIMING YOU!

I'LL BE YOUR MASTER -- YOUR MASTER!

I'LL COME BACK, HOUSE -- WITH HELP!

YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE CRAVEN'S SULLEN MEETING WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE --

NO, SIR! I AIN'T GOIN' UP THERE!

ME NEITHER! ME MUM TOLE HORRIBLE TALES 'BOUT WHAT WENT ON IN THAT PLACE!

THEM CRAVENS ARE MONSTERS!

FOOLS! I DON'T NEED YOU!

-- AND YOU CAN IMAGINE CRAVEN'S TELEPHONE CALL TO A DISTANT CITY!

BRING WORKERS... TOOLS...

NOW, HOUSE, I'LL MAKE YOU OVER -- TO MY LIKING!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, CRAVEN AGAIN STANDS BEFORE YOU, LEADING A PLATOON OF HARD-FACED CRAFTSMEN --

YUH WANT THINGS MODERNIZED, MR. CRAVEN?

NOT MODERNIZED! -- JUST CHANGED! CHANGE IT ALL!

THEN THEY BEGIN! FIERCE STEEL BLADES RIP THROUGH YOUR ANCIENT WOODS... YOUR UNHEARD MOAN MINGLES WITH THE SOUND OF THE SAW AS YOUR ENEMY WATCHES GLOATINGLY--

VVURROARR

--YOUR BELOVED PANELS SPLINTER BENEATH RELENTLESS HAMMER BLOWS--

SMASH!

WHITE HEAT TWISTS AND MELTS YOUR FINE WROUGHT IRON! YOU ARE BEING MERCILESSLY DESECRATED-- AND YOU CAN NO LONGER **STAND** IT! YOU STRAIN, YOU TREMBLE--!

JOINT'S... **SHAKIN'**, MR. CRAVEN!

NONSENSE! IT'S **NOTHING!**

SSSSS

THEY ARE **RUINING** YOU! THEY MUST **STOP!** WITH A SHRUG, YOU HURL YOUR CEILING DOWN AT THEM--

RRRRRRRRRUMBLE...

KRASH!

YOU PELT THEM WITH PLASTER AND STONE! YOU ROAR DEFIANTLY -- AND SEE THEM FLEE LIKE FRIGHTENED ANIMALS, SHOUTING HOARSE, TERRIFIED CURSES!

YU-YURRRRRMMM!!

FOR A MOMENT THERE IS STILLNESS, BROKEN ONLY BY THE MURMUR OF SETTLING DUST! THEN, CRAVEN STAGGERS TO YOUR DOOR AND SCREECHES --

DON'T GO! I'LL DOUBLE YOUR PAY... TRIPLE IT--!

DON'T LEAVE-- COWARDS!

CRAVEN'S VOICE DROPS TO A HUSKY, HATE-FILLED WHISPER...

YOU WON'T BEAT ME, HOUSE... IF I CAN'T BREAK YOUR WILL -- IF YOU REFUSE TO BE CHANGED--

-- THEN I SWEAR I'LL DESTROY YOU!

5.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

when I planned to **retire before fifty**

this is the business that made it possible

a true story by John B. Haikey

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it on a little over a thousand dollars of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount—a little over a thousand dollars—and that amount I could borrow. I could work it as a one-man business while getting a start. No salaries to pay. I could operate from my home. No office or shop rent or other overhead. For transportation I could use the trunk of my family car. (I bought the truck later, out of profits.) But, best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And, I could build this little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And, what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs, and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive part of the dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing of carpeting does. Instead it *lifts out* the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist recently signed a contract for over $40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start for a little over a thousand dollars. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

Would you like to taste the freedom and independence enjoyed by Mr. Haikey? You can. Let us send you the facts. Mail the coupon, and you'll receive all the details, absolutely without obligation. No salesman will ever call on you. When you receive our illustrated booklet, you'll learn how we show you STEP BY STEP how to get customers; and how to have your customers get you more customers from their recommendations.

With no obligation, we'll mail you a 24-page brochure explaining the business. Then you, and you alone, in the privacy of your home, can decide. Don't delay. Get the facts before your location is taken by someone else. Mail the coupon, now.

DURACLEAN INTERNATIONAL
1-210 Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015

send name for full facts

DURACLEAN INTERNATIONAL
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Deerfield, Illinois 60015

WITHOUT OBLIGATION mail letter and 24-page illustrated booklet explaining how I can increase my income and family security with a Duraclean Dealership. No salesman is to call.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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WEARY OF HIS THREATS, WANTING ONLY THE PEACE YOU DESERVE, YOU TILT YOUR FLOOR AND DROP HIM ROUGHLY OUTSIDE--

SLAM!

UNGH!

ENJOY YOUR LITTLE TRICKS NOW, HOUSE BUT REMEMBER... YOUR HOURS ARE NUMBERED--

--AND THE NUMBER IS SMALL!

LATER, YOU LEARN THAT CRAVEN DREW A SMALL FORTUNE FROM THE BANK, AND WENT TO THE CITY--

WRECKING COMPANY INC.

SURE, CHUM! YOU POINT IT OUT AN' WE'LL KNOCK IT DOWN!

'COURSE IT'LL COST!

I'LL PAY ANY SUM YOU ASK --GLADLY!

AS THE SUN'S LAST RAYS GLOW ON YOUR GABLES, YOU SENSE THE EARTH BENEATH YOU QUIVERING ... AND YOU REALIZE YOU ARE ABOUT TO FIGHT YOUR FINAL BATTLE! FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CRAVEN'S EVIL ANCESTOR PERFORMED UNSPEAKABLE RITES WITHIN YOUR WALLS -- HIDEOUS MAGIC THAT GAVE YOU AWARENESS AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY, CAUSED YOU TO LOATHE HUMANITY-- YOU ARE DEEPLY, DREADFULLY FRIGHTENED! CRAVEN APPEARS AT THE HEAD OF A HOST OF CLANKING MACHINERY, SMILING LIKE A TRIUMPHANT GENERAL--!

KLANK-KLANK-KLANK-KLANKETY-KLANK--

SLOWLY, THE HUGE WRECKING DEVICES WHEEZE TO A HALT FEET FROM YOU--AND CRAVEN GIVES A SHRILL COMMAND--

FLATTEN IT!

KLANK-KLANK-KLANK-KLANK-KLANK-KLANK

HELPLESSLY, YOU WATCH THE GIANT BLACK BALL SWING BACK, AND BEGIN ITS PLUNGE FORWARD--!

I'M WINNING...!

KLANKETY-KLANK

YOU ABSORB THE FIRST TIMBER-SHATTERING BLOW AND WAIT FOR THE SECOND--THE DEATH BLOW!

AAAAARRRRR

KA-BASH!

THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT TO THE HOUSE...

BUT IT NEVER FALLS! FOR, AT THE LAST POSSIBLE INSTANT, CRAVEN CROAKS ANOTHER COMMAND--

N-NO! STOP!

NOTHING!

PONDEROUSLY, THE WRECKING EQUIPMENT MOVES INTO THE GATHERING DUSK, AND YOU ARE LEFT ALONE WITH CRAVEN...

I'M TOO WEAK, HOUSE! NOT CRUEL AND STRONG LIKE MY GRANDFATHER--MY FATHER...

I'D HOPED THAT HERE... MOVING INTO THEIR HOUSE... WOULD MAKE ME LIKE THEM...

BUT NO... I'M SOFT-HEARTED... WORTHLESS! I CAN'T EVEN HARM A BUILDING... MUCH LESS A LIVING CREATURE!

YOU GAZE AFTER YOUR ENEMY, WISHING THERE WERE SOME WAY YOU COULD COMFORT HIM... THANK HIM... TELL HIM OF YOUR PITY! NIGHT FALLS AND YOU ARE ONCE MORE ALONE...!

PERHAPS YOU'RE WONDERING EXACTLY WHAT POOR OLD CRAVEN'S GRAND-DADDY DID... BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY, FOR ANOTHER DAY! I'D LIKE TO TELL IT TO YOU, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS--

THE END

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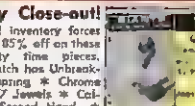

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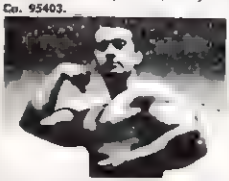

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OL' DIGGER HERE-- WHILE OLD MR. GRAVELY ATTENDS TO A FEW OF HIS OWN...UNDERTAKINGS...

LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF BOSWELL BOLIVER...A SCIENTIST WHO WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TO BE RESPECTED BY HIS FELLOW MAN!

BUT, IF YOU CAN DIG WHAT I'M SAYING...IT SEEMS THAT POOR BOSWELL WAS BORN TO...

"ALWAYS LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING!"

I'M READY...AT LAST! IN A FEW MORE SECONDS...NO ONE WILL EVER LAUGH AT ME AGAIN!

FOR, THOUGH IN THE PRESENT, MEN CHUCKLE MY NAME...IN A LONG-FORGOTTEN ERA OF THE PAST...THEY WILL SHOUT IT IN PRAISE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS A

GARY FRIEDRICH & DON HECK

MASTERWORK OF THE MYSTERIOUS!

INKED BY: FRANK GIACOIA

LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK

JUST A FEW TURNS OF THESE DIALS...

...AND ALL THE HUMILIATION WILL BE BEHIND ME... FOREVER!

FOR, WITH THE TIME MACHINE MY GENIUS HAS CREATED...I CAN...AND WILL GO BACK TO AN AGE WHERE I WILL BE APPRECIATED!

WHERE THE HAUNTING LAUGHS OF TODAY...

HAHAHAHA!

...WILL BE NOTHING BUT THE ECHOES OF A MEMORY!

AS SOON AS I FLIP THIS SWITCH...THE LAUGHTER WILL DIE AWAY!

I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN HEAR ONE MORE SNICKER...SO, MY DECISION IS MADE!

THE POWER IS ON... THE DIALS ARE SET! NOW, I SLOWLY PULL THE ACTIVATOR LEVER...

...AND BID THIS ERA OF TWO-LEGGED HYENAS FAREWELL!

BUT, DO I DARE...?

YES...ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE AS A FOOL!

"THEN, BACK... BACK THROUGH THE PAGES OF TIME TRAVELLED BOSWELL BOLIVER... AT A SPEED SO FAST, SO UNBELIEVABLE... HE FEARED HIS MACHINE HAD FAILED, UNTIL..."

1330

1730

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I? COULD IT BE THAT... YIIEEE!

MOUNTED KNIGHTS... CARRYING LANCES... A JOUST! MY MACHINE WORKS!

BUT, UNLESS I GET OUT OF THE WAY... MY GREATEST SUCCESS... WILL ALSO BE A FATAL MISTAKE!

BRUNCH

"HOWEVER, OUR TIME-TRAVELLING HERO DID MOVE FAST ENOUGH... THOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF HE HADN'T..."

"FOR, ONLY SECONDS LATER..."

LET HIM SPEAK! WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU FIND SUCH STRANGE GARMENTS?

THIS IS THE ODDLY-CLAD KNAVE WHO INTERRUPTED YOUR TOURNAMENT, SIRE!

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO WITH HIM?

I... I CAME HERE... FROM THE FUTURE... IN A TIME MACHINE!

"POOR BOSWELL! HE HAD A REAL PENCHANT FOR SAYING THE WRONG THING AT THE WRONG TIME... BUT TO GET ON WITH THE TALE, AFTER THREE DAYS IN THE PALACE DUNGEON..."

COME! THE KING REQUESTS YOUR *PRESENCE!*

AT LAST! I *KNEW* MY CHANCE WOULD COME!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *PROVE* TO THE KING THAT WHAT I SAY IS *TRUE!*

THEN, WHO KNOWS *WHAT* WILL LIE IN STORE...?

...I'LL BE A *HERO!* I'LL BE CHEERED EVERYWHERE I GO! WHY MAYBE I COULD EVEN BECOME *KING!*

"AND, NO SOONER DID BOSWELL *APPEAR* BEFORE THE RULERS THAN..."

I REALIZE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO *BELIEVE* I COME FROM THE FUTURE...

...BUT, IF YOU WILL ONLY GRANT ME A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR *TIME...*

...I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU... BEYOND ANY *DOUBT!*

THIS DOLT *AMUSES* ME! LET HIM *PROCEED!*

HOW *EASY* THIS WILL BE...WITH THE HELP OF *THREE OBJECTS* I BROUGHT *ALONG* WITH ME!

FIRST, LET ME DEMONSTRATE A REMARKABLE *INVENTION* OF MY TIME... A SMALL METAL BOX WHICH MAKES *FIRE!*

WITH JUST A SNAP OF MY *THUMB* IT WILL BURST INTO *FLAME,* AND...

SNAP!

SNAP! SNAP!

IT...IT *CAN'T* BE! I...I MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO *FILL* IT!

"BUT, BOSWELL COULD HARDLY *EXPLAIN* HIS FAILURE TO HIS AUDIENCE... AND, EVEN IF HE *COULD HAVE,* NO ONE WOULD HAVE HEARD! THEY WERE ALL TOO BUSY... *LAUGHING!*"

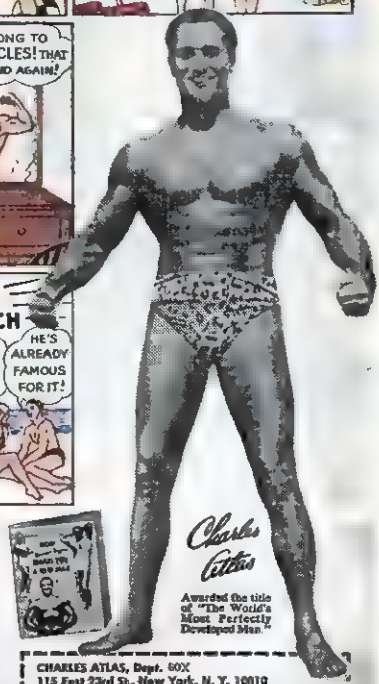
HA HA HA HA

"HE WASN'T FINISHED YET, THOUGH! HE STILL HAD *TWO MORE MIRACLES* TO TRY!"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF MAC

HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE--ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY.
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
LATER
WHAT! YOU HERE AGAIN? HERE'S SOMETHING I OWE YOU!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!
HERO OF THE BEACH
GOSH! WHAT A BUILD
HE'S ALREADY FAMOUS FOR IT!



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WAIT! STOP IT! IF YOU'LL ONLY GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE...I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE!

IF YOU'LL ONLY STOP LAUGHING ...I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT WE CALL... A CAMERA!

I CAN...RECREATE YOUR PICTURE WITH IT! JUST...LOOK INTO IT!

THAT'S IT! NOW...JUST LOOK THIS WAY...AND SMILE! THEN, IN ONLY TEN SECONDS...

HE POINTS THE BOX AT THE KING! IT MAY BE A WEAPON! STOP HIM!

JUST STOP LAUGHING LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DEMONSTRATE ...AND YOU'LL NEVER LAUGH AT ME AGAIN!

"THEN, BEFORE BOSWELL COULD PUSH THE SHUTTER BUTTON, HE WAS GRAZED FROM BEHIND BY AN OVER-ANXIOUS GUARD'S SPEAR...AND, OF COURSE, THE CAMERA SLIPPED OUT OF HIS GRASP...!

"...AND CRASHED TO THE FLOOR! NATURALLY, THE FILM FELL OUT AND WAS EXPOSED!"

YOU WITLESS FOOL! YOU'VE RUINED THE CAMERA...AND THE FILM! AND, WORST OF ALL, EVERYONE'S LAUGHING AT ME AGAIN!

"BUT, BOSWELL COULDN'T GIVE UP! AFTER ALL, HE STILL HAD ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE HIMSELF...

"AND, THIS ONE IS CERTAIN TO KNOCK 'EM DEAD...!"

I KNOW I'VE LOOKED LIKE A *FOOL*, YOUR HIGHNESS...BUT WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE *THIS!*

WHERE I COME FROM...IN THE *FUTURE*, IT IS CALLED A *RADIO!*

YOU NEED ONLY TURN THIS *DIAL*... AND THE RADIO WILL PICK *MUSIC* OUT OF THE AIR... AND PLAY IT FOR YOU...

...*LIKE THIS!*

"BUT..."

TRULY *AMAZING!* THE MUSIC IS SO *SWEET*...WE CANNOT EVEN *HEAR* IT!

HO! HO! HO! THIS FELLOW DOTH TRULY *AMUSE* ME!

WHY DOESN'T IT *WORK?* I JUST PUT NEW *BATTERIES* IN IT!

6

HOWEVER, I FEAR HE DOTH MAKE *MOCKERY* OF THE THRONE!

SURELY HE DID NOT EXPECT US TO BELIEVE IN A BOX WHICH PULLS MUSIC FROM THE *AIR!*

BUT...IT *WILL*... I *SWEAR* IT! THERE MUST BE A LOOSE *SWITCH* IN IT!

IF YOU'LL ONLY GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES... I *KNOW* I CAN MAKE IT WORK!

"BUT, THE MOMENT HE STOPPED TO *THINK*, BOSWELL KNEW THAT HE *COULDN'T* FIX THE RADIO...BECAUSE IN THAT DAY AND AGE, RADIO WAS HARDLY A BOOMING CONCERN! IN FACT, THE RADIO HADN'T BEEN INVENTED YET...AND, *THEREFORE*...

THERE ARE *NO*... RADIO STATIONS...!

6

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Enough Of A Woman
Almost Persuaded
My Elusive Dreams
Bedtime
Where Could You Go (But To Her)
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THE PENALTY FOR MAKING JEST OF YOUR SOVEREIGN'S INTELLIGENCE IS...*DEATH!*

GUARDS...TAKE THE KNAVE TO THE *ARCHERY RANGE*... AND END HIS MISERABLE LIFE AS QUICKLY AS *POSSIBLE!*

WAIT! IT WOULD BE A PITY TO *KILL* ONE SO AMUSING!

I THINK I HAVE A FAR MORE *USEFUL* FATE FOR HIM!

"AND SO, BOSWELL'S LIFE WAS *SPARED* ON THE WHIM OF A QUEEN...BUT SPARED FOR *WHAT*, HE DIDN'T KNOW AS HE WAS HAULED AWAY FROM THE THRONEROOM..."

"...AND TOSSED INTO A DARK ROOM NEARBY! HOWEVER, HE *DID* KNOW THAT IT WASN'T THE DUNGEON...NOR, INDEED, *ANY* KIND OF CELL!"

"THEN, SUDDENLY, A GUARD RETURNED...TOSSED A *COSTUME* AT HIM...AND LEFT!"

"IT WAS ONLY AT THAT MOMENT THAT BOSWELL REALIZED HE MUST RESIGN HIMSELF TO A FATE WHICH, FOR HIM, WOULD BE FAR WORSE THAN DEATH..."

YES...BOSWELL HATED TO BE *LAUGHED* AT... BUT, IN THE END...

...HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LEARN TO *LIVE* WITH IT...IF HE WANTED TO LIVE AT *ALL!*

HA HA HA HA HA

FOR, IRONIC THOUGH IT WAS, THE QUEEN HAD COMMANDED BOSWELL TO BECOME HER PERSONAL *COURT JESTER*...

AND, FOR THE REST OF HIS DAYS, HE HAD TO BE CERTAIN TO... *ALWAYS LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING!*

the END

WHAT'S *THIS?!* YOU'RE DYING FOR OL' DIGGER TO DREDGE UP ANOTHER SHOVELFUL OF *SHIVERS*, AND YOU'RE GAPING AT THE *GENERATION GAP* INSTEAD? DON'T *FRET*, FIENDISH FANS...YOUNG *FREDDY GARRICKS* MAY BE DUELING WITH DAD NOW, BUT *SOON* HE'LL BE EYEBALL TO EYEBALL WITH..

THE FACE OF FEAR!

NO MORE *ARGUMENTS*, FREDDY! YOU'RE GOING INTO THAT BATHROOM AND *SHAVE*...OR YOU'RE *NOT* LEAVING THIS APARTMENT!

I'VE TOLERATED THE *LONG HAIR* AND CRAZY *GET-UPS*, BUT I WON'T HAVE YOU LOOKING LIKE ONE OF THE *SMITH BROTHERS!*

IT'S *MY* FACE... WHY CAN'T I GROW A *BEARD* ON IT IF I *WANT* TO?!

STORY BY:
STAN LEE
SCRIPT BY:
ARCHIE GOODWIN
ART BY:
SYD SHORES
LETTERING BY:
JEAN IZZO

BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE TO *LOOK* AT IT! IF *YOU* DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR APPEARANCE... *WE DO!*

MY *APPEARANCE?* BUT, *DAD*...THE GUYS ARE *WAITIN'* FOR ME, AND...

NO *BUTS*, FREDDY!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING *ELSE*, YOUNG MAN... EXCEPT THE *RAZOR* SLICING THAT *STUBBLE!*

SLAM!

OKAY... OKAY!

APPEARANCES... OH, *WOW!*

THAT'S *RIGHT*, FREDDY. BEST TO GET IT *OVER* WITH... LET THE WATER FILL THE BASIN, BUBBLING *HOT* AS YOUR OWN EMOTIONS... SULLENLY SLAP THE LATHER ON YOUR FACE... YOU DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TIME...THE *UNKNOWN* IS WAITING...!

PEOPLE LIKE MY FOLKS ARE SO *HUNG UP* ON HOW SOMETHING *LOOKS*... THEY DON'T SEEM TO *CARE* ANYMORE WHAT IT REALLY *MEANS!*

OH, MAN... WHAT'S DOING WITH THE DUMB *MIRROR?* I CAN'T SHAVE IF I CAN'T *SEE!*

STEAM FROM THE WATER MUST BE MAKIN' IT *FOG*...

LIKE *SHAVING!* THEY KNOW IT'S A BIG DRAG, SAME AS ME...BUT WILL THEY *ADMIT* IT LIKE ME? *NO*, THEY--

AWWWW... WHAT'S THE *USE?!*

NOW, THAT'S *ONE* ANSWER, FREDDY..

...BUT I ALWAYS HATE A *NORMAL* EXPLANATION! WHY NOT LOOK *CLOSER*... PUT *YOUR* HAND TO THE SMOOTH, DANK SURFACE... WIPE *AWAY* THAT INSIDIOUS HAZE...

HEY! I C-CAN'T RUB IT *OFF*...!

BUT..

NOW IT'S CLEARIN' ON ITS *OWN*! I CAN SEE *MY* FACE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S.. THERE'S...

SOMETHING ELSE!

IT *CAN'T* BE... THAT *FACE*... THAT *CREEPY* FACE..

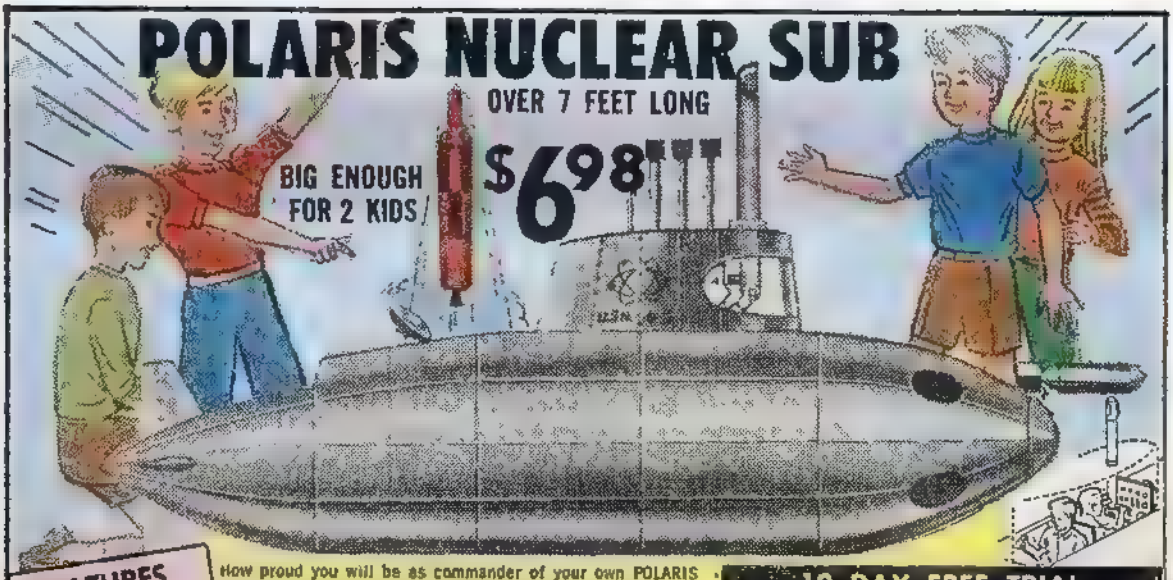
LIKE LOOKIN' AT *DEATH* ITSELF!

GRINNING... *STARING*...! ALMOST AS IF.. AS IF... IT *WANTED* ME!

NO!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BULLPEN, BABY!

(Or, If We Knew You Were Comin', We'd Have Baked A Cake—And We Did!)

ITEM! This is it! Ten years to the month since the first immortal issue of FANTASTIC FOUR ushered in the Marvel Age of Madcap Madness—and have we got an anniversary surprise for you! 'Cause this is the month when each and every one of our award-winning mags goes king-size to 52 pages (that's counting the four-color covers, natch) for a mere 25¢. But then, if you're reading this batty Bullpen page in your own sanctum sanctorum, you already know that—so why don't we toss something atcha that's news?

ITEM! Okay—here's some news: Virtually every one of our swingin' superhero ishes will contain ALL-NEW Marvel masterworks of 33 (count 'em, 33) pages or more! It's like getting both parts of a continued story—all wrapped up between shiny covers, for just two bits. And believe us when we say we've spared no pain, no burning of the midnight oil, to assure you of a flock of first-month fantasies that truly deserve this full-length treatment! This is no shuck—no come-on—we're tellin' it like it is, people!

ITEM! And, while we're playin' Honest Abe, we wanna go the whole route and tell you that a couple of our monthly mags will contain a minimal amount of reprint material—and why! Two of 'em—DAREDEVIL and IRON MAN—will be combining into one bombshell title starting next month, to make room for new ideas and new concepts. Because of this impending change, these two mags—as well as ASTONISHING TALES, which'll feature a 20-page Inhumans extravaganza—will showcase a carefully-chosen selection of classic superhero goodies penned in days past by some of our mightiest masters—Johnny Romita, Wild Bill Everett, Long John Severin, the whole magilla. But even this is merely a period of adjustment while we line up a flock of new features—and all the while, Marvel will be giving you more for your hard-earned dough in more mixed-up mags than ever before—with more ALL-NEW stories than anybody in the whole blamed comics industry! (Now, who was it started the rumor that merry Marvel was just out to make a fast buck by tossing endless reprints at a faithful fandom? You stuck by us when the going was roughest, stalwart one—and we're bettin' you're gonna dig the reward we've cooked up for ya!)

ITEM! Where there are winners, there must be victims. Because of the sudden increase in the volume of pages zooming out from 625 Madison Ave., our panic-stricken printer told us we'd have to shave off a title or two till he got it all together. So we've had to delay for the nonce our breathlessly-awaited DRACULA book, as well as MARVEL PREMIERE #1, which was to be the third of our new quarterly try-out comics. But they'll be zingin' at you on our Checklist page before you know it—and anyway, wait'll you see the frantic new feature we'll be tossin' your way next month in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #2. (Kinda whets the appetite, eh?)

ITEM! Sheesh! That's enough about our new 25¢ size, already! Did all you worldly sophisticates out there catch the great write-up that appeared recently in the Sunday Magazine Section of the far-famed *New York Times*? It sported a candid shot of STAN THE MAN in glorious black and white—and it tells ya just about everything you always wanted to know about Our Leader, but were giggling too hard to ask! (Footnote: Ever since it came out, everybody's been kidding Rascally ROY THOMAS about its mention of his "corn-silk hair." Ah well...such is the price of fame!)

ITEM! Speaking of the Loquacious Lee (and we just were—remember?), he tells us that when he lectured at Boston U. the other week, he was chauffeured around by his high-minded host, canny KENNY ROGOFF, in a Volkswagen Bus. Then, when he went to Harvard to give a talk, he was driven around in gregarious GORDON CROSS' Chevy Blazer, another truck-like vehicle. Next week he's heading for Yale to spread a little more Marvel erudition amongst the cognoscenti—and the whole blamed Bullpen (not to mention Stan himself) is wondering what will await him there. A Sherman tank, mayhap?

ITEM! Hey, here's a hasty note penned by battling BOB RALEIGH, JR., of radio station WPGC in our nation's capital: "On April Fool's Day (a day just made for disc jockeys), all the fellas here switched names. In addition, at the end of each newscast, instead of giving our real names, we could give anyone who came to mind, so we were ending with things like 'This is Peter Parker, WPGC News'...'This is Reed Richards'...'This is Ben Grimm, WPGC Clobberin' News'...and like that." Good show, group—but we're still waitin' for the day when Walter Cronkite paints himself green and comes on like the ever-incredible Hulk!

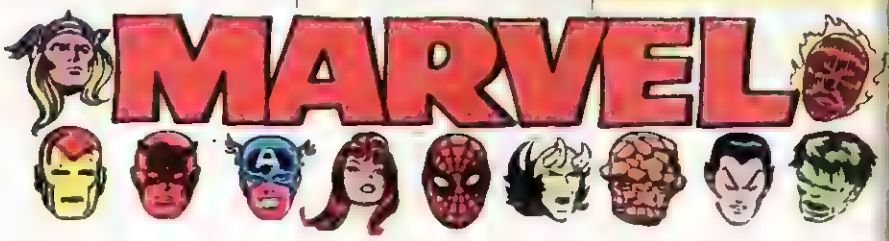
ITEM! We're frankly so excited about our sudden switchover to full-scale 25¢ magazines with almost all new material, that we've let our enthusiasm crowd out mention of the latest hijinx of our agonizin' artists and writers. But the personal chitchat'll be back next go-round, crew—and by then we hope you'll have let us know how you feel about our new size and format. Don't be shy about voicing your opinion, now; after about three decades of being under fire by a frantic fandom, ol' Smiley couldn't stand the shock!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, gang. I just wanna take a minute to dig out from under the work that's accumulated in the past few weeks to thank the great guys who were in there pinch-hitting while I took a short breather from my comic-mag chores. You've probably noticed Rascally Roy's rhapsodic rendition of Spider-Man—Artful Archie's awesome artistry on the good ol' F.F.—Groovy Gary's gargantuan feat of penning Captain America—'and Merry Gerry's been very very on the Mighty Thor. (Sorry 'bout that!) Also, leave us not forget the Herculean labors of Jumbo Johnny Verpoorten, our pandemonious production chief, who manages to keep things rolling no matter what. To each and every one of these sagacious stalwarts, and all the rest of the Bullpen Assembled, I humbly tip my well-worn beanie cap in eternal gratitude. But, did they have to do such a great job while I was coppin' out? That's a heckuva way to make a fella feel secure!

Excelsior!

Stan



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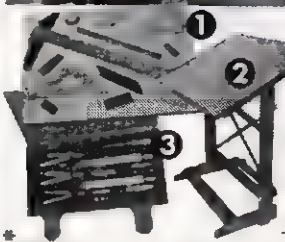

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IT'S A TRICK... SOME KIND'A TRICK!

DAD, IF YOU SNEAKED IN HERE TO TRY AN' SCARE M--

NO ONE... NOTHING BEHIND ME...! IT'S NOT A REFLECTION...

IT'S REAL!

WHO ARE YOU... WHAT DO YOU WANT...? WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THAT?!

STOP IT! DO YOU HEAR ME...?

STOP IT!

BUT, YOUR SPECTRAL FRIEND RESPONDS ONLY WITH SILENCE, EH, FREDDY? PLUS THAT MOCKING SMILE... AND THOSE SUNKEN, BALEFUL EYES THAT THREATEN TO SEAR INTO, PERHAPS EVEN CLAIM, YOUR VERY SOUL!

YOU CAN'T HAVE ME!!

I'LL SMASH YOU... DESTROY YOU...!

...GET OUT OF HERE TO SOMEPLACE A THING LIKE YOU CAN NEVER REACH ME AGAIN!

WILL YOU, FREDDY? YOU CAN *FLEE* THE APARTMENT... *RUSH* PAST YOUR BEWILDERED PARENTS...

MUSTN'T *STOP*... CAN'T LOOK *BACK*! GOTTA REACH THE *ELEVATOR*!

...BUT, CAN YOU *TRULY* ESCAPE THAT CADAVEROUS COUNTENANCE WHICH NOW HAUNTS NOT JUST A *MIRROR*... BUT YOUR OWN *MIND* AS WELL?!

WHY DOESN'T IT *COME*? WHAT'S *TAKIN'* IT SO LONG?!

SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS *HOLDIN'* THESE THINGS JUST WHEN YOU *NEED* 'EM!

C'MON, C'MON! OPEN THOSE *DOORS*!

I GOTTA *GET OUT* OF THIS PLACE!

I GOTTA PUT AS MUCH *DISTANCE* BETWEEN ME AND THAT--

AND THAT... THAT...

EEYAHHH!

LEAVE ME ALONE... *PLEASE!* LEAVE ME *ALONE!*

WHAT DO I HAVE TO *DO*... WHERE CAN I *GO*...TO GET AWAY FROM THAT *THING*?!

THE FIRE STAIRS...! I CAN STILL REACH THE LOBBY!

WHY *ME*?! *WHY*?!

WHAT DID *I* EVER DO... WHY DOES IT WANT *ME*?!

MADE IT! BUT...IF IT WAS WAITIN' FOR ME IN THE *ELEVATOR*, HOW DO I KNOW IT WON'T BE LURKIN' SOMEPLACE *ELSE*...?!

THAT TERRIBLE *SMILE*... THOSE AWFUL *EYES*... JUST WAITIN' TO--

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' *ON*...?

WHAT *INDEED*, FREDDY! JUST A LITTLE GATHERING OF SOME OF THE *NEIGHBORS*... GATHERING AROUND A MISSHAPPEN MASS OF TWISTED *STEEL* AND SHREDDED *CABLE*...

THE *ELEVATOR!* THE ONE I WAS GOING TO *TAKE*...

A TERRIBLE THING... TERRIBLE! FELL LIKE A SHOT... EIGHTEEN FLOORS!

THANK HEAVEN, NO ONE WAS *INSIDE*! SOMETHING MUST HAVE MADE WHOEVER *STOPPED* IT ON THE [BI]! FLOOR CHANGE HIS *MIND*!

WHATEVER *THAT* WAS, LADY, IT SURE SAVED HIM FROM *NEVER* BEING ABLE TO CHANGE HIS MIND AGAIN!

THE *FACE*! IT WASN'T OUT TO *GET* ME, BUT TO *WARN* ME!

I-I LET ITS *APPEARANCE* FOOL ME... JUST LIKE I ALWAYS COMPLAIN ABOUT MY *FOLKS* DOIN'! MAYBE THEY AREN'T SO *DIFFERENT* AFTER ALL...

BUT, THE *FACE*-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO *IT*...?

IS IT *THROUGH* WITH ME... IS THE DANGER *OVER*...?

7

...OR, WILL I GO THROUGH MY *LIFE* LOOKIN' IN *MIRRORS*... AND *WONDERING*?!

HEH, HEH, HEH... I GUESS WE CAN'T REALLY BE *SURE*, CAN WE, FREDDY? AT LEAST NOT UNTIL THE NEXT TIME THE FACE APPEARS TO *WARN* US... OR WORSE YET... *DOESN'T*!

Ernie

THE DAY OF THE RED DEATH!

SMILIN' STAN HERE... FILLING IN FOR HEADSTONE P. GRAVELY!

SO, YOU SAY YOU'RE A MYSTERY-MAG BUFF... BUT YOU DON'T QUITE GO ALONG WITH ALL THESE NEW-FANGLED STORIES?

YOU SAY YOU CAN'T BEAT THE OLD MASTERS ... LIKE SAKI, AND LOVE-CRAFT, AND MAYBE EVEN BITTER OLD AMBROSE BIERCE?

WELL, HERE'S AN OLDIE BUT GOODIE FOR YOU... EVEN IF YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN COULDN'T RESIST UP-DATING IT A WEE BIT!

AND, IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE GRAND-DADDY OF 'EM ALL... A FELLA NAMED POE!!

THE RED DEATH HAD LONG DEVASTATED THE GLOBE! NO MERE PESTILENCE HAD EVER BEEN SO FATAL, OR SO HIDEOUS, AS THE DEADLY BLOOD-RED VAPORS WHICH CURLED AND COILED ABOUT THE SURFACE OF A DYING LAND!

YES, DYING... EXCEPT FOR THOSE WITHIN A CERTAIN CLIFF-PERCHED BUNKER...!

A MODERN-DAY MIRROR OF A MACABRE MASTERWORK!

STAN LEE • EDITOR
ROY THOMAS • SCRIPTER
DON HECK • ARTIST
LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN

RUPERT GRISWOLD HAD SEEN THE CATASTROPHE COMING--- GRISWOLD, THE ARMS MANUFACTURER... GRISWOLD, WHO HAD SHUT HIMSELF AND A FAVORED FEW AWAY IN THIS BUNKER --- GRISWOLD, THE ETERNAL WINNER...!

WINNING AT CARDS AGAIN, RUPERT?

I ALWAYS WIN, LOVELY LENORE--- WHETHER IN WAR---

---OR AT POKER!

YOU AMAZE ME, RUPERT--- YOU REALLY DO!

WE EIGHT... PERHAPS THE ONLY PEOPLE LEFT ALIVE, ON EARTH!..

AND YOU STILL PLAY CARDS AS IF IT MEANS SOMETHING!

WE PLAY...FOR POWER, MY DEAR EX-SOCIALITE!

IT DOES MEAN SOMETHING, MY DEAR!

WHICHEVER OF US HAS WON THE MOST WHEN WE EMERGE FROM THIS PLACE WILL COMMAND THE LOYALTY OF THE OTHERS!

TELL HER, PRINCE MARCO ---IN YOUR OWN CHARMING WAY!

HE WILL BE KING---KING OF A NEWBORN PLANET!

BUT, IT WAS FOLLY TO GRIEVE, OR TO THINK OF THE DESOLATE, DEPOPULATED WORLD OUTSIDE! FOR, WITHIN THE BUNKER WERE ENTERTAINMENTS--- CAMARADERIE---MUSIC---EVEN BEAUTY! ALL THESE... AND SAFETY...WERE WITHIN ITS CONCRETE WALLS!

"WITHOUT...WAS THE RED DEATH!"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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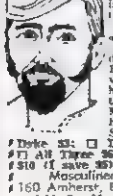

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MEANWHILE, ONE OTHER STOOD ALOOF FROM THE GRIMLY-CONTESTED GAMES...AND THOUGHT DARK THOUGHTS...!

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN IN THE GAME, GEORGE... THE SCRAMBLE FOR POWER?

YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE ANY BETTER THAN THOSE VULTURES FOR WHOM YOU DESIGNED THIS PLACE, DO YOU?

AFTER ALL, FOR ALL YOUR NOBLE PRINCIPLES, NOBODY HEARD YOU RAISE A VOICE IN PROTEST...

...WHEN DYING MEN WERE REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO GRISWOLD'S IMPREGNABLE BUNKER!

YOU WATCHED THEM DIE... AND WAS GLAD IT WASN'T YOU!

YOU LIKE TO THINK YOU'RE PURE...CLEANSED... LIKE THE AIR THAT PASSES THRU THIS MASSIVE FILTER YOU ENGINEERED!

BUT, DOESN'T IT JUST MADE THE DEATH, THE UGLINESS OUTSIDE?

AND DOESN'T THAT JUST MAKE YOU...PERHAPS THE WORST OF ALL?

AND FINALLY, THERE WAS CARLOTTA... WHO HAD BEEN A MOVIE QUEEN IN THE WORLD THAT WAS NO MORE... AND NOW ASPIRED TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF ROYALTY..!

GEORGE HARRIS IS A WEAKLING!

IF NOT FOR THAT, HED MAKE MY IDEAL MATE IN THE WORLD THAT IS TO FOLLOW...

AND, MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, CARLOTTA MOORE...

...ALIAS BETTY JEAN WAHNAMEYER OF CANTRELL, KANSAS...

WHEN THAT RED DUST OUTSIDE SETTLES, YOU'RE GOING TO BE UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF ALL YOU SURVEY!

FUNNY HOW THINGS WORK OUT...!

"WAS IT ONLY DAYS AGO THAT SCIENTISTS WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH A NEW POISON GAS..."

"...IN ONE OF GRISWOLD'S ARMS PLANTS NOT TWENTY MILES FROM HERE...?"

IF THIS GAS CAN BE CONTROLLED, IT MAY MAKE WARFARE OBSOLETE!

MORE TO THE POINT, DR. FARNUM... IT WILL MAKE A FORTUNE FOR RUFUS GRISWOLD!

I DON'T LIKE IT! IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE THE COLOR OF...

WAIT! TOO MUCH PRESSURE BUILDING UP! TOO MUCH...!

"THEN, WITH GRIM SUDDENNESS...!

FROOM!

THE GAS... EXPLODED!

FARNUM... IS DEAD!

AND... HIS FACE HAS TURNED A DEEP SCARLET!

LIKE THE GAS HE HELPED CREATE!

BUT THE GAS... IT SEEMS TO BE... SPREADING...!

STILL, THAT ISN'T LITTLE CARLOTTA'S PROBLEM!

I CAN WELL IMAGINE THE FEAR-WRACKED STREETS OF THE WORLD'S TEEMING CITIES!

AND DIDN'T IT SPREAD, THOUGH... ITS CRIMSON APPETITE FEEDING ON THE VERY AIR ITSELF!

BUT, GRISWOLD WAS PREPARED FOR SUCH DISASTER... AS HE WAS PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!

"BY NOW, THE WHOLE WORLD IS PROBABLY A BARREN WASTELAND ...EXCEPT FOR US, SAFE BEHIND GRISWOLD'S AIR FILTER! STILL...'

IS SOMETHING *REMISS*, MY DEAR?

YOU DON'T LOOK ESPECIALLY *PLEASED* TO BE ONE OF THE ONLY *TWO WOMEN* ON EARTH!

MAYBE SHE'D LIKE TO *JOIN* OUR FRIENDLY LITTLE GAME..!

NO, THANKS! I'M NOT THAT EASILY *AMUSED!*

IN FACT, IT'S *BOREDOM* YOU DETECT, GENTLEMEN ...PLAIN, PURE *BOREDOM!*

I *SUSPECTED* AS MUCH, MY LOVE!

RETIRE TO YOUR *CHAMBERS*, MY FRIENDS...AND YOU'LL ALL FIND *FESTIVE COSTUMES*

PERHAPS A LITTLE *MASQUERADE PARTY* WILL LIVEN US ALL UP!

AND SO, WITHIN THE *MASSIVE* BUNKER, A GAY, MAD *MASQUE* WAS HELD---

"AND *WITHOUT* ...WAS THE *RED DEATH!*"

THE *LADIES!* WHERE ARE OUR LOVELY *LADIES?*

HERE THEY COME, MY IMPATIENT GUEST!

AND WELL WORTH THE *WAIT*, TOO!

ALL HAIL THE *FAIREST* OF THE *FAIR!*

LET PESTILENCE AND DEATH RULE THE OUTER WORLD... THOSE WHO WERE *WEAKER*, LESS *PROVIDENT* THAN WE!

TONIGHT WE *FROLIC*... FOR, ON SOME BRIGHT TOMORROW, WE SHALL *INHERIT THE EARTH!*

THE TIME SPED SWIFTLY BY... UNTIL THE BUNKER'S LONE, LOUD CLOCK TOLLED THE HOUR OF *MIDNIGHT*..!

THE HOUR OF *DEATH*... AND OF *NEW LIFE*!

ISN'T TIME TO *UNMASK*, GRISWOLD?

TRUE, TRUE... BUT WHERE IS OUR GOOD FRIEND GEORGE?

HE'S OFF SOMEWHERE *BROODING*, AS USUAL!

I KNOW HE *DESIGNED* THIS BUNKER FOR YOU, RUFUS...

BUT, IT WAS A *WASTE* OF PRECIOUS AIR TO LET HIM *LIVE*!

BONG BONG BONG

NOW, NOW, CARLOTTA... BE A BIT MORE *TOLERANT* OF OUR SOMBRE ASSOCIATE!

HERE HE COMES NOW, IN THE GUISE OF...

GOOD LORD!

THOSE *RAGS*... THAT GRIM, OUTLANDISH *MASK*!

HE LOOKS LIKE... THE *RED DEATH* ITSELF!

I NEVER GAVE YOU SUCH AN OUTFIT, YOU FOOL!

TAKE IT OFF... *AT ONCE*!

DIDN'T YOU *HEAR* MR. GRISWOLD, GEORGE?

HE MEANS *NOW*!

SO, HE WON'T *UNMASK*, EH... OR EVEN DEIGN TO *SPEAK* TO US!

THEN, MAYBE WE SHOULD SHOW HIM OUR OWN IDEA OF *BLACK HUMOR*!

I THINK WE ALL *UNDER-STAND* YOU, FRIEND!

AFTER HIM!

GOT HIM! HE'S SLOW ...UNSTEADY ON HIS FEET!

YOU CAN UNMASK HIM NOW, GRISWOLD!

THAT I SHALL! THEN, WE'LL SEE WHY HE'S PLAYING THESE...

OH NO--NOO!!

IT'S...TOO HORRIBLE!

HIS FACE IS... RED!!

YES...AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU...DON'T YOU?

THE RED DEATH WALKS AMONG US... TOUCHING EACH ATOM OF AIR WE BREATHE...!

IN YOUR HAND... THE CONTROL SWITCH OF MY AIR FILTER!!

BUT THEN... WE'LL ALL DIE... EVEN YOU!

WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHY??

WHY? BECAUSE WE WERE EVIL... ALL OF US...

BECAUSE NOT ONE OF US DESERVED TO LIVE...TO BE THE NEW ADAM!

TOO BAD ABOUT GRISWOLD AND HIS GANG, ISN'T IT?

ESPECIALLY SINCE IT TURNED OUT THAT NOBODY WAS KILLED BY THE RED DEATH OUTSIDE A 20-MILE RADIUS!

"AND ONE BY ONE DROPPED THE REVELLERS... AND DARKNESS AND DECAY AND THE RED DEATH HELD ILLIMITABLE DOMINION OVER ALL!"
... EDGAR ALLAN POE

BETTER FAR A DESOLATE EARTH...A DEAD WORLD...THAN ONE RULED BY US!

DON'T YOU AGREE... MR. GRISWOLD...!

THE WORLD DIDN'T REALLY END THAT DAY...OR HADN'T YOU NOTICED?

End

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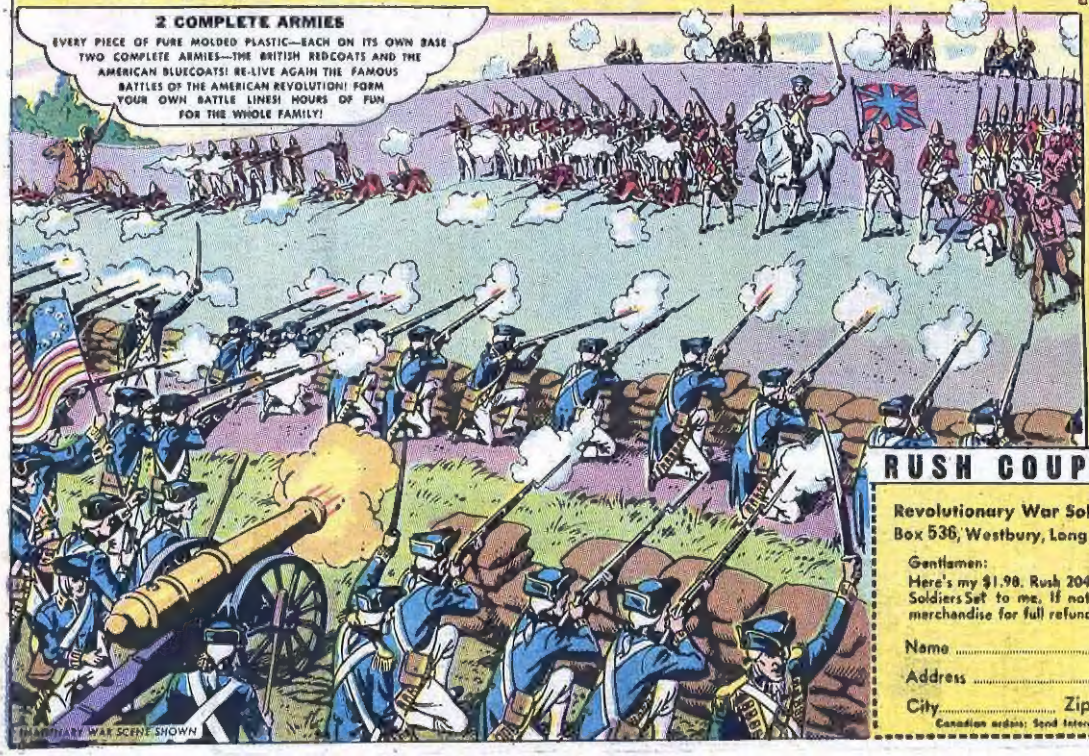

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